

MEDICAL MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TASK FORCE

**MEETING SUMMARY FOR
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003 @ 12 NOON**

**EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5TH FLOOR
1010 SECOND AVENUE**

For Information contact Ed Plank (236-6433).

Attendees:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: Chair: Jerry Meier, Mike Barbee, Larry Chaidez, Dale Kelly-Bankhead and Ann Shanahan-Walsh

Staff: Lisa Foster, Staajabu Heshimu, Cesar Solis and Ed Plank.

The Chair noted that a quorum was present

RFP Update

The Chair indicated that several meetings had occurred with the focus being a detailed review of the RFP to identify any enhancements which would make the City's objectives and expectations clear, and would result in proposals that would be structured in a way that would facilitate their evaluation. A final draft will be provided to the Task Force once completed.

It was noted that a City intern had made a number of recent contacts with agencies who had established card programs in place, and had prepared a matrix on the elements of these programs including start up and operational costs, volume of activity, existence of guidelines, etc.. Dale mentioned that many of these agencies had been contacted previously and provided input which was used in the initial preparation of the RFP and guidelines. (a copy of the latest information collected is attached - Word document)

Caregiver Code of Conduct

A copy of the latest (10/09/02) Model Caregiver Code of Conduct was distributed and reviewed by the Task Force. Language changes including the elimination of the language regarding training workshops were approved. Since the code is stated to be voluntary, the Task Force decided that the term "should" would be more appropriate than "will" in the specific recommendations. Ed noted that some of the "recommended" guidelines may be specific requirements under the Ordinance. He will identify any such requirements for Task Force consideration. Staa to incorporate Task Force edits (see attached - Word document).

Fund-Raising Efforts

Chair informed the Task Force that he had received a negative reply from the Soros Foundation in response to the on line grant application he had submitted the previous month. The Human Dignity Fund account currently has a balance of approximately \$300 in donations. Awaiting word from Daniel Weinberg, City Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, regarding

potential donors for the program.

Sub-Committee Reports

Law/Legislation SB420 is the reintroduced legislation from Senator Vasconcello which requires the local Health Agency to implement a Medical Cannabis Registration Card program for patients and caregivers. (To view the text of this bill and the most current analysis and activity go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and click on the button titled "**Bill Information**")

This bill would have the effect of requiring the County of San Diego to assume responsibility for establishing and funding the Card Program which the Task Force is currently working to put in place. The legislation has passed the Senate but final approval and signature by the Governor are speculative.

There was a discussion regarding the timing of the docketing of the Ordinance to formalize the Law Enforcement Guidelines for Possession and Cultivation of Medicinal Cannabis. Lisa Foster indicated she was awaiting feedback from some key stakeholders in her office who had received initial drafts to for review. In particular, she wanted their comments on her proposed indemnification language. The goal is to provide the draft Ordinance for discussion at the July MMTF meeting in anticipation of the Ordinance being docketed for Council discussion prior to the legislative recess in August.

Physician's Recommendation Form - The Task Force discussed whether the Verification Card provider should be responsible for developing the standard form for documenting a physician's recommendation. The decision was it would be helpful to have samples available of as many of the anticipated forms to be utilized in the Card program as possible so the provider would not need to start from scratch.

The Chair stated that, consistent with the discussion at the last Task Force meeting, a letter had been sent to the Interim Police Chief expressing the Task Forces's input regarding the objectives of the Council approved guidelines and their incorporation into the Police procedures for handling medicinal cannabis interactions, including: relieving officers of necessity of making medical decisions or verifying medical information when a person asserts a medical need, creating a safe harbor for patients and caregivers within which they know they will not be subject to invasive questioning or other law enforcement actions, and respecting the medical privacy of patients.

There was discussion of providing Task Force input to the City for consideration in the selection of the new Police Chief. The Task Force voted 4-1 to prepare and send a letter, under the Chair's signature, to the City Manager for consideration. Mike Barbee offered to take the lead in preparing a draft for Task Force review and comment. Ed Plank to provide information on the timing of the process.

Patient Advocacy - Mike Barbee proposed a meeting with David Mosler, the newly appointed District Attorney representative on Medical Marijuana Issues, to discuss the City's guidelines and to provide information about the City's efforts. He indicated Mr. Mosler had expressed interest in learning more about the City Task Force and its activity. The proposal was referred to a joint meeting of the Patient/Advocacy and Law/Leg Subcommittees to develop a recommended approach to working with Mr. Mosler and the District Attorney's Office.

MMTF Attendance/Participation - Mike Barbee encouraged addition of new members and new initiatives for the Task Force work program. Dale expressed concern that the focus needs to be on getting the Ordinance adopted and the Card program in place. Lisa pointed out there will be a need for ongoing monitoring of the Card program for reporting back to Council. The Chair indicated the Future Work Plan will be an agenda item for discussion at the July Task Force meeting.

Mike Barbee requested a set of the California Title 24 manuals on accessibility. Other Task Force members noted the material should be available on line or at a library. Larry said he could provide information on how to access the manuals. Mike was to pursue these alternatives and contact Ed Plank if he still needed assistance in accessing the documents.

New Business

No new business

Public Comment Topics

PC1- Request for Task Force to adopt policy statement regarding changing the federal law regarding medical marijuana use and to implement a plan for distribution of medical marijuana. Dale stated that the Law/Leg subcommittee had discussed making recommendations to Council regarding the federal situation and had determined that the focus, for now, would remain on getting the Ordinance approved and the verification card in place. This should not be interpreted that the Task Force does not care about, or disagrees with the concerns expressed by the speaker regarding the federal position.

PC-2 Speaker noted he had met with Damon Mosler and that Mr. Mosler was interested in meeting with the City Task Force about its efforts. He also noted that Mr. Mosler provides recommendations to the DA regarding prosecutions

PC-3 Requested name and address of a physician who could recommend use of Cannabis. Chair indicated that this was not the role of the Task Force and referred the individual to a Community Health organization to discuss his situation with a Patient Advocate

PC-4 Speaker commented that Chula Vista and other cities are watching the efforts of the MMTF

PC-5 Speaker expressed interest in getting more involved in implementing Prop 215